Year	Value of Seizure (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	32.55
1996.-97	40.98 (Prov.)

(b) Smuggling of contraband goods from Nepal into India has been brought to the notice of Nepalese authorities.

(c) Field formations are alert to check any smuggling including from Nepal to India.

[English]

Office of the Commissioner, Excise and Customs, Guwahati

3112. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planing to open the Office of the Commissioner, Excise and Customs at Guwahati;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. At present there is no proposal to open the Office of the Commissioner, Central Excise and Customs at Guwahati.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Disinvestment Commission

3113. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Disinvestment Commission has written to his Ministry saying the off loading of the Government's holding in public sector undertakings and the initial public offerings by PSUs should be coordinated with the decision on both to be taken simultaneously;

(b) if so, his Ministry's decision thereto; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government on the disinvestment strategy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is the policy of the Government to provide a high degree of autonomy in decision making for public sector enterprises. In this context, the dicision to go in for a new issue of capital should be left entirely to the public sector enterprise, to be taken in the light of its corporate plans. This should not be conditioned by the Government's desire to disinvest a portion of its equity. However, while planning disinvestment, the Government will take into account the decision of the PSE to go in for fresh equity. Accordingly it has been decided that public sector enterprises wishing to make a new issue of capital should not be required to go to the Disinvestment Commission mandatorily, but they are free to consult the Commission if they wish to do so. The decision of the Government has been communicated to the Chairman, Disinvestment Commission.

Computer Exports to Russia

3114. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of computers exported to Russia and the foreign exchange earned therefrom including the names of major exporters during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have allowed any Indian company for their operation from Russia; and

(c) if so, the nature of their operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The details of computers export to Russia and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years are given below:-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Exports
1993-94	23
1994-95	55
1995-96	35

The major exporters of computer hardware to Russia include Altos India Ltd, Dubhim Exports, Ganesh International, HCL Hewlett Packard Ltd., Melstar Exports & Technologies Pvt Ltd, Microtek International Pvt. Ltd, Modi Olivetti Ltd, Ratan Exports & Industries Ltd, Tangerine Informatique Ltd, Wipro Ltd., etc.

(Source: Electronics & Computer Software EPC)

(b) and (c) A number of Indian joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries have been approved by the Government for their operation from Russia. Their nature of operation include manufacturing, hotel and restaurant, trading etc.

Smuggling of Silk

3115. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether smuggling of silk yarn of Chinese origin is increasing into the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

(c) the measures contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Banking System

3116. SHRI N.J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India have taken any steps to set up a monitoring system with a view to develop a rationalised banking system in the country during the last three years, till-date;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the achievements made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Following steps have been taken to strengthen the monitoring of banks by the Reserve Bank of India during the last three years:

(i) Setting up of Board for Financial supervision.

(ii) Offsite monitoring system for banks.

(iii) Revamping of the system of on-site inspection.

(iv) Strengthening internal audit and inspection in banks.

(v) Annual inspections are now being undertaken for public sector banks, foreign banks and weak private sector banks.

(vi) Scheme for collection and dissemination of information relating to defaulters and suit field accounts.

(c) Most banks have achieved a turnaround by registering a downward trend in non-performing assets and general improvement in their overall performance.

[English]

Bank Guarantee From Sugar Exporters

3117. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to demand 10 percent Bank guarantee from all sugar exporters;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether his Ministry has also decided similar bank guarantee from the exporters of other agricultural products;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for such demand from sugar exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), an agency designated for issue of Registration-cum-Allocation Certificate for sugar exports, has fixed 5% of the F.O.B. value as performance guarantee.

(b) The condition to submit Bank Guarantee has been introduced to prevent speculative trade and cornering of quote by a few exporters and to ensure that exports actually take place against the allotted quota.

(c) and (d) Exporters of other agricultural products are required to furnish performance guarantee at the following rates:-

(i) Milk powder, butter and ghee @ 5% of the F.O.B. value

(ii) Coarse grains and wheat products @ 10% of the F.O.B. value.

(e) Does not arise.

Cement Plant in Andhra Pradesh

3118. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from South Korea to set up Cement Plant in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total cost of plant;

(c) whether permission for setting up the cement plant has been accorded by the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The question does not arise.

Funds to State Governments

3119. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: